

~~TOP SECRET CORSE~~

M45

New York-Moscow  
1944  
No. 824 (7 June)

To Victor [VIKTOR].

Your no. 3310:

1. I conversed with Charist [CHARIST<sup>kh</sup>] about the DESIATKA<sup>8</sup>; according to] his account the DESIATKA is conscientious with the exception of Ruby [RUBY]. Relative to the drinking bout we are sending a résumé by Charist. There have been no other cases [or: incidents], I shall get together before long [with] R. and IRA separately?....., from them? details. I shall telegraph the results.

According to Charist's account right now Artemius [ARTEM] and Gregory [GREGORY] are living together with girl students they made the acquaintance of on the steamer. Charist bore me to raise the question again of his wife's coming inasmuch as the DESIATKA is supposed to stay? here at least a year more. For the time being the DESIATKA is asking permission to send telegrams and parcels to [their] families by designated? addresses, in order that your people may intercept them and deliver them to the addressees. Telegraph.

2. By post I am sending a memorandum [or: report] [in] which I shall adopt the following conventions<sup>9</sup>:

B. the Plant [ZAVOD]<sup>4</sup>,

ZH. decipherment [RASCHIFROVKA][,]

IV. editorial staff [or: office] [REDAKTSIYA],

D. the Factory [FABRIKA]<sup>6</sup>,

OK. the Neighbor [SOSED]<sup>7</sup>,

SH. cover [PRIKRYTIYE],

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T. sound-recording apparatus [ZVUCHOZAPIS<sup>U</sup>IVAYUNIKHAYA  
APPARATURA],

R. eavesdropping [PODUSHIVANIYE],

N. personnel of the Office [SOBTAV<sup>U</sup> KONTOR<sup>U</sup>]<sup>U</sup>,  
<sup>U</sup>

P. the Syndicate [SINDIKAT]<sup>U</sup>,  
<sup>U</sup>

H. courier guard [? SOBTIER-guard or courier's guard?;  
KURIER(A?) OHRANA],

M. surveillance [NABLIUDENIYE],

F. the Office [KONTORA]<sup>U</sup>,  
<sup>U</sup>

E. conspiracy [or: conspirativeness; KONSPIRATSIYA],

L. cipher clerk [SHIFROVAL'SCHNIK],

G. worker [RABOTNIK]<sup>U</sup>,  
<sup>U</sup>

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<sup>U</sup>Previously rendered: the Ten. This translation, while justifi-  
able (see below), is misleading, for it tends to suggest that the  
DESIATKA was necessarily composed of just ten people. Actually, its  
quantitative reference may be no stronger than that of, say, "the Four  
of Clubs" or "Eight Ball". A translation of the definition of DESIATKA  
in the Folkovyy Slovar<sup>U</sup> follows; English words for the various mean-  
ings are added in brackets:

DESIATKA: 1. 1. The figure 10 (coll.) [a ten]. || The  
designation of various objects numbered with this figure (coll.),  
e.g., billiard ball no. 10 [the ten (ball)], tramcar, autobus no.  
10 [number 10]. || A school mark denoted by this figure (school  
obj.) [a ten]. 2. A playing card having ten pips [the ten, a ten,  
a/the ten-spot]. 3. A ten-ruble note or coin (coll.) [like our  
tenner, ten-spot]. 4. A launch with ten sails (naut.).

However, speaking in favor of the quantitative interpretation is the  
use of TENDKA. Its meanings parallel those of DESIATKA; it can mean

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"three horses harnessed abreast to one vehicle"; and it<sup>is</sup> famous in the history of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik) for its application to various triumvirates formed by Lenin and Stalin.

<sup>b</sup>Possibly ~~ANKETNYE ANKES~~ = questionnaire address or interrogation-form address (meaning?).

<sup>c</sup>Note that the terms to be coded can all be referred to Soviet personnel and control of their actions (by surveillance, microphones, etc.). The use of the post and of a special code suggests that the contents might concern in part the cipher clerk(s) and others handling correspondence between New York and Moscow.

<sup>d</sup>The Soviet Consulate (in New York).

<sup>e</sup>The Amtorg Trading Corporation.

<sup>f</sup>Red Army intelligence service.

<sup>g</sup>Of the State Security apparatus in the Consulate.

<sup>h</sup>The People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs [~~NAKONNY KEMISSA-  
RUL~~ ~~INOSTRAN~~ <sup>IN</sup> ~~DEL~~ = ~~NAKONNENDEL~~ = ~~NKID~~].

<sup>i</sup>The State Security apparatus in the Consulate.

<sup>j</sup>That is, operative.

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